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## PROCEEDINGS AND TRANSACTIONS.

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GENERAL MEETING, held in the Tholsel Rooms, Kilkenny, on  
Wednesday, July 4th, 1855,

JAMES M. TIDMARSH, Esq., Mayor of Kilkenny,  
in the Chair.

Present, the following members :—

Robert Cane, Esq., M. D.	C. Humphrey Prim, Esq.
Abraham Denroche, Esq.	John G. A. Prim, Hon. Sec.
Rev. James Graves, Hon. Sec.	James G. Robertson, Esq.
John James, Esq., L.R.C.S.I.	John F. Shearman, Esq.

The following new members were elected :—

The Very Rev. the Dean of Leighlin; and Thos. Wigmore, Esq.,  
Ballyvodore, Middleton: proposed by the Rev. James Graves.

The Rev. P. Digges La Touche, A. B., Painestown Rectory,  
Slane; the Rev. S. Parsons, B. D., Navan; S. S. Seranke, Esq.,  
C. E., Navan; and Mr. J. Blake, T. C., Navan: proposed by the  
Rev. F. W. Wetherell.

Robert Ross of Bladensburg, Esq., Rostrevor: proposed by the  
Rev. Robert O'Callaghan, D. D.

John G. Davis, Esq., Secretary to the Mechanics' Scientific In-  
stitute, Waterford: proposed by J. Palmer Graves, Esq.

Rev. Paul Smithwick, P. P., Baldoyle, county of Dublin; and  
Bernard A. M'Dermot, Esq., Belanagare, French-park: proposed  
by John F. Shearman, Esq.

W. B. Kelly, Esq., 8, Grafton-street, Dublin; and M. E. Con-  
way, Esq., General Post Office, Dublin: proposed by Mr. John  
O'Daly.

Henry Martin, Esq., Principal, Endowed School, New Ross:  
proposed by John G. Davis, Esq.

On the motion of the Rev. James Graves, John G. Davis, Esq.,  
was elected Honorary Local Secretary for Waterford.

The following presentations were received, and thanks ordered to be given to the donors :—

By John Greene, Esq., M. P. for the county of Kilkenny : “The Antiquities of Shropshire,” by the Rev. R. W. Eyton, Rector of Ryton, Vol. II. parts 1 to 4.

By the Library Committee, Guildhall, London : “A Descriptive Catalogue of the London Traders, Tavern, and Coffee-House Tokens, Current in the Seventeenth Century, presented to the Corporation Library by H. B. H. Beaufoy ;” second edition.

By the Author, John Lindsay, Esq., Barrister-at-Law : “Some Observations on an Ancient Talisman, brought from Syria.”

By Robert MacAdam, Esq. : “The Ulster Journal of Archæology,” No. 10.

By Richard Hitchcock, Esq. : Dutton’s “Statistical and Agricultural Survey of the County of Galway ;” also five tracts.

By the Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland : their “Journal,” No. 45.

By the Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History : their “Proceedings,” Vol. II. No. 3.

By the Author, Richard Sainthill, Esq. : “Numismatic Crumbs.”

By the Yorkshire Antiquarian Club : “Reports” of their Proceedings, 1854–55.

By the Publisher : “The Builder,” Nos. 638 to 647, inclusive.

By Mr. John Campion : A Bill of the Kilkenny Gentlemen’s Plays, 24th October, 1806.

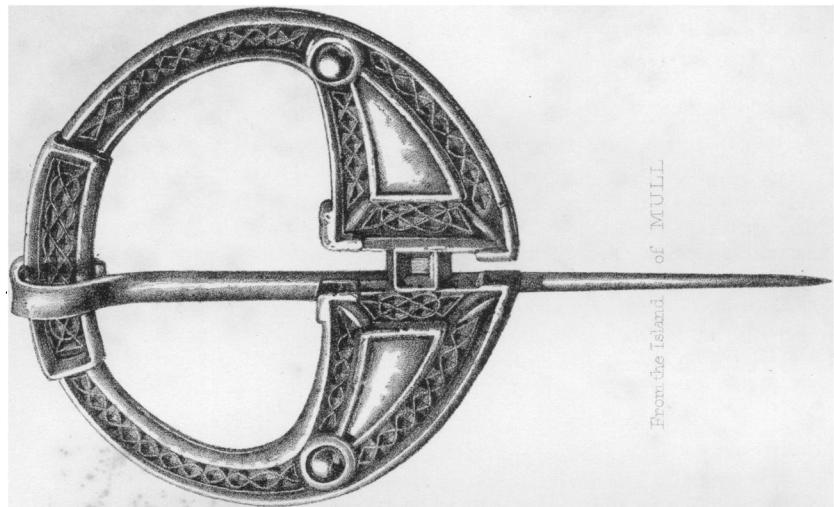
By Lord James Butler : the acus, or pin, of a brooch of bronze ; a jetton ; and a weight of the standard of Ireland, 20 dwts. 16 grs., A. D. 1698 ; found in excavating the new vault of the Ormonde family, in the south transept of St. Canice’s Cathedral.

By Mr. John G. A. Prim : a bronze processional crucifix, apparently of the seventeenth century, stated by the person from whom he purchased it to have been dug up at Holdensrath, near Kilkenny.

By the Rev. James Graves : a remarkably fine flint arrow-head, found on the gravel of a cut-out bog near Kane’s-bridge, in the Johnswell mountains, county of Kilkenny ; also a bronze implement, shaped like a gigantic spur, supposed to have formed an ancient ornamental pendant for the bridle.

By Mr. Benjamin Grubb : impressions of the mayoralty seals of Clonmel ; the larger bearing a figure of Justice, with the inscription, SIGILLVM . MAIORATVS . DE . CLONMELL ; the smaller, a sword, pale-wise, garnished with a wreath of laurel, and the motto at each side, HÆC INDE.

By Thomas Alderdice, Esq., Armagh, the Rev. J. L. Drapes, and J. R. Smith, Esq. : various ancient coins.



From the Island  
of MULL.

Dug & Sent, Intire to the Queen.



Ancient Brooch of Bronze,  
found in a Cave upon the JURA shore of the  
Gulf of Corse Bbreacan.. JURA

E.J.B. delt — F. Bedford lith.

Mr. J. F. Shearman exhibited a curious antique painting, on panel, representing the Madonna and Child, drawn on a gold ground, very much in the style of the Greek school. He had procured it from a fellow-student at Maynooth College, a native of Limerick, who, however, could tell nothing of its history.

Mr. Hitchcock exhibited a volume of the Newspaper Reports of the Society, from the year 1849 to the end of 1853, carefully inlaid, interleaved, and bound. This unique collection contains some matter not printed in the Transactions, and affords a curious record of the Society's proceedings from the commencement.

Mr. J. G. Robertson exhibited an impression of the seal of an ecclesiastic, found in June, 1843, in the progress of some works in the castle of Carrickfergus. The matrix is in the possession of Alexander Johns, Esq., Carrickfergus. It is of the oval form, and bears for a device the figure of St. Margaret, with the legend, *O RA PRO NOB' STA MARGARETA.*

Mr. J. Richardson Smith communicated some particulars respecting an ancient brooch, found in the cave of Bhreacain, on the Jura shore of the gulf of Corryvreckan; as also of another, found in the island of Mull; presenting, at the same time, seven hundred and fifty impressions of the accompanying beautifully executed lithograph of those remains, intended to illustrate his communication.

"The brooch figured in the lithograph without the *acus*, although its Celtic or Dalriadic origin will hardly be doubted, yet has an additional interest from the romantic position in which it was found. It is of bronze, much decayed, and coated with a brown varnish-like oxide. The lithograph, although most accurately drawn, yet scarcely conveys the idea of its ancient character and appearance. The brooch was found in a small cave immediately adjoining the cave of Bhreacain, on the Jura shore of the gulf of Corryvreckan, which runs between the northern part of Jura and the island of Scarba. This gulf, or whirlpool, is noted in fable as the spot where Bhreacain, the son of a king of Denmark, was swallowed up with his ship and crew, he having fruitlessly tried to anchor with three anchors in the gulf. His body, says the story, was brought to the shore by his dog, and was buried in the cave which still bears his name, the corruption or change of which gives the title to the gulf. Bhreacain in the Gaelic, I am told, means Tartan,—*Breac*, striped or spotted; *ain*, a person or thing. The tradition or superstition of the peasants in the neighbourhood, on the brooch being dug up, at once decided that it had belonged to a person who died of the plague of 1665, in the reign of Charles II., and that it was unlucky to remove it, and it was left for two years on a ledge of rock in the cave. There are on the same farm-lands stone barrows of undoubted Celtic origin, which are reputed to be the ruins of stone houses pulled down, or left to fall over the bodies of those who died from the same disease. The brooch came into my possession from an old schoolmaster who found courage to take it away, and from whom I also got a bronze spear measuring  $14\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, which he found buried in a peat moss on the

same farm. He informed me that he had seen swords, made of hard wood, dug up in the same moss,—they were sharp at each edge, but were called by the people bachiuls or clubs. I cannot find that any of these have been preserved; but he informed me he had given many curious articles which he had collected to the late Walter Campbell, Esq., of Islay. I have strongly urged him to preserve any other memorials of a past age which may be found, for the instruction and information of those who would trace the story of a pre-historic race by the weapons or ornaments which time may have spared. Of the other brooch, much the most interesting from its high finish, I unfortunately only know that it was found in the island of Mull. It is of bronze; two of the stones remaining, much decayed, in their settings; the centre one is wanting; they appear to consist of some blue paste or composition, and have much the look of lapis lazuli; the two flat pieces on the lower part of the brooch are thin plates of gold inlaid in the bronze. I purchased the brooch, with a large collection of Celtic antiquities, in the village of Lochgilphead, Argyleshire; and on going a few days after to inquire as to the localities where several of the articles were found, I learned that the party from whom I made the purchase died on the following day from an attack of cholera, so that no information could be had respecting any of them. I may, in conclusion, say a word as to the difficulty experienced by a person not speaking or understanding the language to obtain a correct spelling even of one Gaelic word; for as to the word Breacan, I have been assured by those who seem to speak and write Gaelic equally well, that it was Breacan, Bhreacain, while the common name is Vreck'an."

The Rev. James Graves, in contributing a transcript of a curious document preserved in the Evidence Chamber, Kilkenny Castle, said that it was the return, signed in autograph, of a commission issued by royal authority to ascertain the damage mutually inflicted on each other in the course of the deadly feud then raging between the Earls of Ormonde and Desmond, and their respective followers. Although, from the reasons set forth in the document, the statement is *ex parte*, yet it gives a melancholy picture of affairs in Ireland at that period; and affords at the same time an insight into the value of cattle, horses, and corn in that country at the period. The report of the commissioners is dated October 31, 1567; and large as is the award therein given against the Earl of Desmond (£20,894 12s. 8d., Irish money), a letter from Queen Elizabeth, two years after, ordered restitution money, to the still more enormous sum of £50,000, to be paid to the Earl of Ormonde. Sir Henry Sidney, then Lord Deputy, commenting on this award, remarks:—"The Earl's whole inheritance will not answer it for these forty years to come."<sup>1</sup> The report of the commissioners is written on one skin of parchment, which is fastened, bookwise, by the labels of the seals to two blank skins, and on the back of the outside skin is written, in an old hand, "De posicōns of Witnesses concerning the Spoiles cōmitted by the Erle

<sup>1</sup> "Ulster Journal of Archæology," vol. iii. p. 50.

of Desmonde." The seals are all lost except that of Fynglas, which is blank, and Nugent's, which is charged with two bars ermine, with a fleur de lis as a mark of cadency in the seventh degree. The document was as follows:—

"MEMORANDUM where the Queens moost excellent ma<sup>tie</sup> by hir hieghnes comission sealed w<sup>t</sup> her greate Seale of this hir realme of Irlande directed vnto us whose hands and seales are hereunto subscribed and put [ . . . ], to inquier of, heire, examyn and finally determyn by all wayes and meanes that to our circumspections should be thought mete and expedient, all and singular the debats, controversies, quarrells, grieffes, and all manner [ . . . ] nmitie, moved or growen betwixt Thomas Erle of Ormounde and Ossorie and his servaunts, tennaunts, and folowers of thone ptie, and Gerald Erle of Desmounde and his servaunts, tennaunts, and folowers of thother ptie [ . . . ] concerning all maner of murders, manslaughters, burnyngs, Riots, frayes, vnleafull assemblies, breaches of hir ma<sup>ties</sup> peace, spoiles, praines, roberies, and detayners of goods, chattles or men, and for all other maner of offences and trespasses doon or comytytted by the saide Erles or any of them, or by any of the saide ps ons against other, contrary to hir hieghnes lawes as in the same comission herevnto annexed more at large dothe and maye appeare. WE [ . . . ] of the said comission having receyved severall books of articles of the pte of the saide Erle of Ormounde, his tennaunts, servaunts, and folowers, comprehending dyvers and sondry treasons, felonies, murders [ . . . ] trespasses and such like offences doon and comytytted by the saide Erle of Desmounde and his brother S<sup>r</sup> John of Desmounde Knight, the white knight, and dyvers others of the saide Erle of Desmoundes men, his tennaunts, and folowers, and such others as depende upon hym dwelling under his rule and by him maynteyned. We did take and receyve severall deposicions vpon every of the saide Articles, for the prouf and verifieng thereof, as in the book hereunto annexed, wherein is conteyned not oonly the saide severall articles but also the deposicions of the same, more at larde appeareth. And of the pte of the saide Erle of Desmounde, his servaunts, tennaunts, and folowers nothing [ . . . ] was before us to chardge the saide Erle of Ormounde, his servaunts, tennaunts, or folowers, albeit the right honorable the Lorde Deputie sent the M<sup>r</sup> of the Rolls and Seriaunt ffynglas, twoo of the saide comysioners, to the saide Erle of Desmounde (he then being in hir ma<sup>ties</sup> Castle of Dublin) to declare vnto him howe comysioners were travailing to the borders of their severall rules to heir, examyn, Judge, ordre, and ende the causes betwyxt the saide Erles and their servaunts, tennaunts, and folowers, and to vnderstande whether he woulde authorise any to propone and set furthe his and his tennaunts, servaunts, and folowers grieffes and hurts against the said Erle of Ormounde and those under his rule; who refused sayeng that he would send noon ne yet propone any mattres against the sayde Earle of Ormounde or any undre his rule. And albeit the saide Lorde Deputie sent agayne S<sup>r</sup> John Plunket knight chief Justice of hir ma<sup>t</sup>s chief place, and James Bathe hir highnes chief Baron, to the said Erle of Desmounde to require him to sende his causes of complaint w<sup>t</sup> oon authorised to set furthe same before the said comysioners that they might procede aswell to descide the causes of thone side as of thother, who before them utterly refused so to do, and his answere

signified unto us his ma<sup>ts</sup> said comyssioners by the said Lorde Deputie, who was then towards the confines of bothe countreys, viz. at Clonemel in the countie of Tipparie, addressed or fres unto the saide S<sup>r</sup> John, brother to the saide Erle, and then capitayne of the countrey in thabsence of his said brother, requiring him not onoly to repaire vnto us w<sup>th</sup> such causes of complainte as he and other the tennts and followers of his said brother had againste the said Erle of Ormounde or any under his rule, and also to cause proclamation to be made through oute his rule that all those that had ane like cause of complaint should repaire to such place w<sup>th</sup>in the saide Erle of Desmounds rule, and at such tyme, as he shoulde appointe, at whiche place or tyme we would [ . . . ] there for the hiring and ending of the saide causes; who returned aunswere vnto us that he was prohibited by his saide brother therle of Desmounde to deale in any such matter, and so for himself and those under his saide brothers rule neither came nor sent any authorised in that bihaulf, wherevpon we proceeded to the taking, and after to the pusing of the saide deposicions taken vpon the said Articles exhibited on the bihaulf of the said Erle of Ormounde and other his tenn<sup>ts</sup>, servaunts, & followers, by whiche deposicions appeared vnto us playenly and manyfestly that there was taken and spoiled from Therle of Ormounde and those under his rule, specified [*in the saide articles on their*] pte, therein alledged, the numbre of nyne thousaunde eight hundrethe threschore and syxtene kyne, which we judge rate and value at twenty shillings lawfull money of Irlande the cowe, and so the same amounteth to nyne thousaunde eight hundrethe threschore and syxtene pounds lawfull money of Irlande. Eight hundrethe and foure stood mares, whiche we judge rate and vallue at thirty three shillings and four pence of the like money the mare, and so the same amounteth to oon thousand three hundreth and forty pounds. Two thousaunde eight hundrethe twenty and seven plough gerrance, whiche we judge rate and value at twenty six shillings and eight pence of the like money the gerrane, and so the same amounteth to three thousaunde seven hundrethe three schore and nyne pounds sixe shillings and eight pence. Foure thousande foure hundrethe syxty and eight swine, whiche we judge rate and value at three shillings and four pence of the like money the sowe, and so the same amountethe to seven hundrethe forty and three pounds. Seventene thousaunde eight hundrethe forty and oon shepe and goats, whiche we judge rate and value at two shillings of the like money the shepe and goate, and so the same amounteth to nyne hundrethe thirty foure pounds and twoe shillings. [Foure] thousaunde seven hundrethe fforty seven pounds sixtene shillings and eight pence in money howshoulde stiffe and corne burned. Ffiftyfour bushells of corne taken awaye, which we judge rate and value at [ . . . ] shillings of like money the bushel, which bushell maketh of London measure foure bushells, so as the same amounteth to sixtene pounds and foure shillings. Thirty and nyne chife horsse, whiche we judge, &c. at tenne pounds of the like money the horsse, and so the same amounteth to three hundredth fowreschore and tenne pounds. Twenty hackneys, which we judge, &c. at foure pounds of the like money the hackney, and so the same amounteth to foure schore pounds. There were oon hundrethe and fforty men women and childeyne slayne and burned, ffoure Townes burned, twoo hundrethe foure schore and twelve howses burned, and eight ricks of corne, whiche we could not value. The totall sume of

all the afore specified goods by us valued, as afore saide, after the saide rate admounteth to twenty thowsaunde eight hundrethe foure schore and fourtene pounds twelve shillings and eight pence lawfull and current money of Irelande. WHICHE kyne, stoode, gerrants, swyne, shepe, goats, money, bushells of corne, chief horsse, and hackeys, over and beside the pticulars afore saide not valued, whiche holy appeared before us by goode prouf, we do order and adjudge that the same shall be aunswereed, contented, [ . . . ] unto the saide Erle of Ormounde or his assignes at Cashell in the countie of Tipparie by the feaste of sent mychell tharchangill next after the date of these psents, vnto thuse of the saide Erle and other the compaignaunts in the saide booke, by the saide Erle of Desmounde, S<sup>r</sup> John his brother, the white knight, and others of habilitie specified in the said articles, their heirs, executors, and assignes, for their severall offences and [ . . . ] and in default of habilitie of the saide S<sup>r</sup> John, the white knight, and other before mencioned in tharticles other then the saide Erle, then same to be paide [ . . . ] and satisfied by the said Erle of Desmounde, his heirs, executors, or assignes, for as much as they were his men and dwelling undre his rule, and by him mayntained and succoured at the tyme of the saide hurts and facts, and that by the feaste afore saide, and also for want of payment of the said cattell in manner aforesaid we do adjudge and ordre that the said Erle, S<sup>r</sup> John his brother, the white knight, and others of habilitie specified in the said articles, their heirs, executors, and assignes, for their severall offences shall aunswere and paye by the saide feaste of St. Mighill for the saide cattaille after the rate and value aforesaid. And in defalt of habilitie in any of the saide psons, other than the saide Erle, for the saide satisfac-  
tion in money at the rate aforessaide, that then the said Erle of Desmounde, his heirs, executors, and assignes, shall satisfye and paye the said whole summe of money by the saide feaste of Sent Michell thearchangill for as much as they were his men and such as dwelled under his rule, and by him mayntayned and succoured at the tyme of the said facts comytted.

"YEUEN vndre our hands and seals at Dublin the last daye of October  
in the nynthe yere of the most prosperous [ . . . . . ]aigne lady Elizabeth by the grace of God  
Queene of Englande, ffrance, and Irlande, Defendour of the faithe, &c.

"Patricke Wat'forde.  
" W. Fitz wylliams. H. Draycott. Nic. Nugent.  
Rychard ffynglas."

Mr. J. G. Robertson, in presenting a sketch of a small ancient cross, recently discovered by him, said :—

"I regret being unable to give any particulars concerning it, as I have been unsuccessful in my endeavours to glean some information from the people in the vicinity of the cross, which is situated on the lands of Bally-callan, in the county of Kilkenny (the property of Henry James Loughnan, Esq.), about a mile from the church of the same name. The cross stands quite close to the hedge bounding the road to Kilmanagh: it is shaded by a fine beech tree, and is evidently very old; the rubble work upon which its base is placed is modern, having been built by the country people, that by thus raising the cross it would look more important, as it is very small, and is called in Irish, 'Crois-gar,' or the little cross. The Rev. James

Graves suggests that it may originally have been the gable cross of Ballycallan Church. I am disposed to adopt this view, as the style or form and size of the cross seem well adapted for such a situation. As local customs are fast disappearing, I would wish to place on record the following custom, which, during my rambles about Ballycallan, I learned from the people of the neighbourhood. On the first day of February (being St. Bridget's day), parties who have relatives buried in the church-yard of Ballycallan come and strip the grass from the graves of their friends, which they then cover with gravel, and decorate with branches of laurel and other evergreens, being unable to procure flowers at the above season."

Mr. E. Fitzgerald, Honorary Local Secretary for Youghal, sent the following account of some traces of ancient polychromy, lately discovered in the church of St. Mary, Youghal :—

"A week or two ago, an old window in the gable between the nave and choir of St. Mary's, which had been built up for centuries, was opened, and, when cleared, was found to be decorated by painting from the springing of the arch upwards. The window is about 40 feet from the ground, and is one of two which occupy the spandrels over the chancel arch; it is an oblong square at the choir side, of 3 feet 1 inch by 1 foot 2 inches; at the nave side it forms a widely splayed Gothic arched window. As the masonry was removed, I examined the arch for a very different purpose, when I observed on the square head, as you look from the nave side, five sets of perpendicular lines, in couples at regular intervals, and above these, on a square band, three stars of about 3 inches in diameter, with two three-quarter circles intervening; the circles are turned on their backs with open sides up. Around the radius of the Gothic part, next the square head, are two lines, 2 inches apart, with a row of small circles about three-quarter inch diameter, forming a neat border. From this part of the arch to the inside edge of the wall is in breadth 2 feet, forming the splay of the window; on the inside edge are three parallel lines, which run round the soffit of the arch, one on the edge, and two close together, 5 inches from the inside, leaving a space of 4 inches between; this space is filled in with radiating lines in couples, the couples repeating at intervals of about 6 inches, down to the springing of the arch, giving quite the appearance of a halo or glory round the head; between this and the inner border of small circles is a space of about 18 inches in breadth; this is also filled in with four eight-pointed stars of 6 inches diameter, at regular intervals. All the stars and circles are of a purple or dark red colour; the different lines are dark blue, and the ground is a light buff or gold colour. The reds have stood well, are in general bright, but the blues are much faded. This is not a bad specimen of our old Irish polychromy work, which I think may be proved some 600 years old. Within the memory of living witnesses, we could boast a painted ceiling of over 100 feet in length, spanning the nave of this fine old fabric; the old oaken roof being then exposed to view, lined between with boarding painted blue and powdered with golden stars.

"In hacking off the plastering from the interior of Killaloe Church another specimen of polychromy was lately discovered, being a dog-tooth, painted in red, round one of the arches."

Mr. John G. A. Prim announced the discovery, by himself and fellow Secretary, of two very fine Ogham stones in the rath of Dunbel, which had been secured for the Society's Museum. He was compelled to hold over a detailed account of the discovery to the next Meeting of the Society, in order that the paper might be accompanied by suitable illustrations, which were being prepared.

Evelyn P. Shirley, Esq., M.P., presented to the Society a transcript of the first portion of a Tour in Ireland, by Thomas Dineley, in 1681, being an original manuscript in the possession of Sir Thomas E. Winnington, of Stanford Court, in the county of Worcester, Bart., who has kindly permitted it to be transcribed for the use of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society. The manuscript is profusely illustrated with pen-and-ink sketches of towns, castles, churches, and sepulchral monuments, many of which have long ceased to exist. As soon as the funds of the Society permit, it is proposed to undertake the printing of this very curious document. The Secretaries will gladly receive donations for this special purpose.

The following papers were then submitted to the Meeting.

#### THE CASTLES OF CORKAGUINY, COUNTY OF KERRY.—No. I.

BY RICHARD HITCHCOCK.

To write the history of the castles of Ireland would be, in a great measure, I believe, to write the history of the country from the English conquest; and the same observation of course applies to any district in Ireland. In offering a description of the present remains of the small castles, or fortalices, of that part of the ancient Desmond country now comprised in the barony of Corkaguiny, in the county of Kerry, I shall, therefore, touch as little as possible on their history, one which, I believe, is but very little known, and which, even if it were written, may not, after all, be a very interesting production. But, considered apart from the troubulous times in which the Irish castles were erected, they present to the contemplative mind many pleasing and deeply interesting associations. If we view them as memorials of those times, now happily, and let us hope for ever, passed away, as the theatres in which have been enacted many a tragic as well as joyous scene, as the strongholds of gallant knights and "ladyes faire," as the supposed haunts of ghosts and evil spirits, or as picturesque objects dotted over a peaceful and smiling landscape, we have much, indeed, to admire and reflect on. It is in this spirit that I propose to contribute to the Transactions of the Kilkenny